

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 11, 17 and 26 are amended. Claims 27-31 are added. No new matter has been added.

For at least the following reasons, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of claims 1-26 and due consideration of new claims 27-31 are respectfully requested.

I. FORMAL MATTERS

On page 4, the drawings are objected to for allegedly failing to show every feature of the invention. Applicant respectfully submits that §1.83(a) of the rules states that conventional features disclosed in the description and claims, where their detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention, need not be shown, and does not mandate such illustration. The specification on page 5, lines 6-11, describes Fig. 1 as showing a mandrel 12 with an outside diameter of greater than or equal to 300 mm in the embodiment. Fig. 1 shows a circular mandrel 12 that inherently has a circular diameter. Consequently, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand the recited diameter of the claims by the detailed description in the specification in conjunction with the drawing figures. Consequently, Applicant submits such detail is not necessary for a proper understanding of the scope of the claim and requests withdrawal of the objection.

II. REPLY TO REJECTIONS

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 17 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as indefinite. Claims 1 and 17 are amended. Regarding the rejection of claim 25, claim 26 is now amended to depend from claim 24 wherein antecedent basis for the bars is present. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 17 and 25 is respectfully requested.

On page 5, claims 1, 2, 4, 17, 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,842,493 to Ohuchi et al. (hereinafter "Ohuchi"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ohuchi fails to disclose sectors comprising on a first side teeth and on a second side opposite the first side a circular edge defining a radius, the sectors being interconnected by ... links extending on the second side radially outside the radius of the circular edge of the sectors, as recited in claims 1 and 17.

Ohuchi discloses a stator core formed by a strip, enabling optimizing the stress distribution in the material of the strip, providing recesses 4 on the side of the strip opposite the teeth and individually in alignment with the respective teeth (see col. 2, lines 51-54).

Ohuchi discloses that such recesses enable Ohuchi to obtain a particular stress distribution in the material when the strip is wound to form the stator core. As the core is ideally circular, the intended circular form is obtained through a coining treatment (see col. 3, lines 24-32).

Nevertheless, Ohuchi does not teach or disclose providing sectors interconnected by links that are situated radially outside a radius of a circular edge of the sectors, or the outside radius having a circular edge.

Therefore, claims 1 and 17 are distinguishable from Ohuchi. Claims 2 and 4, which depend from claim 1, and claims 24 and 25, which depend from claim 17, are likewise distinguishable over the applied reference for at least the reasons discussed above and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 17, 22 and 25 is respectfully requested.

On page 5, claims 1, 2-6, 8-10, 17-22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 4,365,180 to Licata et al. (hereinafter "Licata"), in view of U.S. Patent

No. 5,859,486 to Nakahara et al. (hereinafter "Nakahara"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Neither Licata, Nakahara nor their combination discloses sectors, comprising on a first side teeth and on a second side opposite the first side a circular edge defining a radius wherein the links extend on the second side radially outside the radius of the circular edge of the sectors, as recited in claims 1 and 17.

Licata discloses a strip of tooth segments connected by the end of the tooth, each segment having a complimentary partial tooth at its ends and at least one whole tooth between the partial teeth (see col. 2, lines 15-19). When the strip is wound, the partial teeth of adjacent segments are juxtaposed to form a whole tooth and the stress hardening in the core is confined to the joints between adjacent segments (see col. 2, lines 23-26). Therefore, Licata fails to disclose or suggest sectors interconnected by links situated radially outside a radius of a circular edge of the sectors opposite the teeth, as recited in independent claims 1 and 17.

Nakahara fails to overcome the deficiencies of Licata because Nakahara discloses a rotary motor for a driving medium used in a magnetic disk drive unit, optical disk drive unit or the like, the rotor comprising a plurality of blocks 9 connected by means of thin portions 10 (see col. 19, lines 33-34). Consequently, Nakahara does not teach or suggest a strip of lamination sectors designed to be wound on a mandrel to form a stack of layers of sectors, as recited in claim 1, or a circuit comprising a stack of layers of sectors formed by helically winding a strip of sectors, as recited in claim 17.

Therefore, claims 1 and 17 are distinguishable over Licata, Nakahara, and their combination. Claims 2-6 and 8-10, which depend from claim 1, and claims 18-22 and 25, which depend from claim 17, are likewise distinguishable over the applied references for at

least the reasons discussed above and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2-6, 8-10, 17-22 and 25 is respectfully requested.

On page 6, claims 7 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Licata in view of Nakahara in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,102,040 to Rich. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, neither Licata, nor Nakahara nor their combination suggests the features of claims 1 and 17. Rich fails to overcome the deficiencies in Licata, Nakahara and their combination. Consequently, claim 7, which depends from claim 1, and claim 23, which depends from claim 17, are distinguishable over the applied references. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7 and 23 is respectfully requested.

On page 7, claims 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Licata, in view of Nakahara, and in further view of EPO 72999 to Frister. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

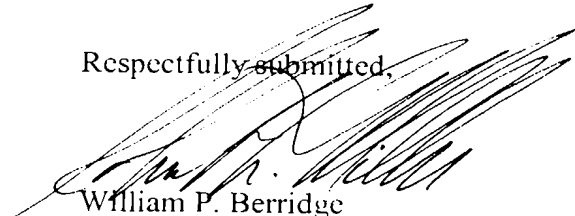
As discussed above, neither Licata nor Nakahara nor their combination suggests the features of claim 17. Frister fails to overcome the deficiencies in Licata, Nakahara and their combination. Consequently, claims 24 and 26, which depend from claim 17, are likewise distinguishable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 24 and 26 is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-26 and due consideration and allowance of claims 27-31 are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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